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Compensation for the Discovery and Gift to his Country and Mankind of the Application of Ethereal Vapor, as a safe and practical Anæsthesia, or Pain-subduing Agent. 8vo pamph. Washington. 1863. [Pub. Doc.]

Charles S. Storrow.

Report of the Commissioners upon the Troy and Greenfield Railroad and Hoosac Tunnel, Feb. 28, 1863. 8vo vol. Boston. 1863.

Charles Folsom.

An Essay on the Senses of Smell and Taste; to which was awarded the Prize of the Boylston Medical Society in 1863. By Norton Folsom. 8vo pamph. Boston. 1863.

St. Louis Mercantile Library Association.

Seventeenth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Association. 8vo pamph. St. Louis. 1863.

Young Men's Mercantile Library Association of Cincinnati.

Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Board of Directors. 8vo pamph. Cincinnati. 1863.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Federal Relations, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Address as relates to the Military Defences of the State, the Petition of B. N. Bullock in regard to an invention for iron armor for vessels, and the Order of the Senate relative to taking measures for calling out the mechanical and inventive talent of the Commonwealth. 8vo pamph. Boston. 1862. [Senate Doc. No. 177.]

Five hundred and twenty-fourth Meeting.

August 12, 1863. — STATED MEETING.

The VICE-PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Messrs. Silliman and Dana, presenting the American Journal of Science and Arts to the Academy for the current year.

Dr. Charles T. Jackson exhibited a mass of meteoric iron, weighing nearly eleven pounds, which was sent to him by Major John B. Hoffman, United States Agent to the Ponca tribe of Indians.

This specimen was detached from a mass weighing one hundred pounds. It was found on the surface of the earth in the Dacotah Indian country, ninety miles from any road or dwelling. Owing to a natural fissure in the mass, and its columnar structure, it was found practicable to divide it by aid of a sledge-hammer. It was supposed in Dacotah that this metal was some alloy of silver, on account of the remarkable whiteness of some portions of the mass, and it was sent to Boston to be assayed for silver. The specimen was at once recognized as meteoric iron, and a subsequent analysis confirmed that conjecture. Native metallic iron in large masses has not yet been recognized on this planet, excepting when it is of meteoric origin. Masses which have been seen to fall from the heavens have been found to contain an alloy of iron, nickel, tin, chrome, phosphorus, and occasionally a little sulphur and iron have also been detected in them.

Chemical analysis of the Dacotah meteorite gave the following results: —

Specific gravity 7.952.

Metallic iron, whiter than artificial iron ; has in some places a hardened crust on the surface, but internally files quite soft.

Analysis.	No. 1.	No. 2.
Metallic Iron,	91.735	91.735
" Nickel,	6.532	7.080
" Tin,	0.063	0.063
Phosphorus,	0.010	0.010
Cobalt, Chrome, } traces.		
	98.340	98.888

No chlorine, sulphur, or copper was discovered in this meteorite.

Dr. Jackson also exhibited some beautiful and perfect crystals of green felspar, or Amazonian stone, from the granite quarries of Rockport, Massachusetts.

This mineral was first discovered at Rockport by Rev. S. Barden of that town. He subsequently discovered purple fluor-spar, small crystals of zircon, and very large and handsome crystals of smoky quartz, equal in beauty to those found near Mount Saint Gothard in Switzerland. Recently, Rhodonite or red bi-silicate of manganese and Fergursonite, a compound of oxides of tantalium, yttria, and cerium, have been discovered by Mr. Barden, and determined by the analyses of Dr.

Jackson. Mr. Alger has also recognized some minute crystals of topaz on the green felspar. It appears, therefore, that the granite rocks of Rockport are far from being barren in minerals of scientific value.

A report from the Rumford Committee was presented, and, there being no quorum for the transaction of business, was referred to an adjourned meeting.

Five hundred and twenty-fifth Meeting.

September 8, 1863. — ADJOURNED STATED MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The President read a letter from Professor Hitchcock, accompanying a memoir entitled "Supplement to the Ichnology of New England." Also a note from Professor Eliot, resigning his place as a member of the Rumford Committee.

Professor Lovering called up the recommendations of the Rumford Committee, which were read at the previous meeting and referred to this meeting for the action of the Academy. On the motion of Dr. Beck, it was

Voted, That the sum of three hundred dollars be paid from the income of the Rumford fund to Mr. O. N. Rood, to be used by him in making investigations on the subject of the physical relations of the iodized plate to light; — the results of these investigations to be communicated to the Rumford Committee, and to be offered by them for publication in the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Bond gave an account of the construction of achromatic object lenses by Dr. Steinheil of Munich, according to the method of Gauss; this being the first successful attempt at working lenses in the form proposed by Gauss for the correction of chromatic aberration, independently of spherical aberration. Lenses thus constructed have the advantage of combining large apertures with short focal lengths, and thus require only short telescope-tubes, which are least liable to errors from flexure. The thickness of the glass needed for producing lenses of the requisite curvatures is one of the chief difficulties in constructing this species of achromatic lens.